



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POSITIVE FUTURE FORCAST FOR LOCAL ECONOMY IN 2005 *Experts at 21st Annual Economic Roundtable Expect Solid Economy*

San Diego is headed for a solid but not spectacular year, with slow, but continued increases in employment and decreases in the inflation rate from 2004, said the economic experts at the 21st Annual Economic Roundtable held today at the County Administration Center.

With continued growth in manufacturing, bioscience and other industries, San Diego is expected to "...overcome problems created by rising interest rates, stubbornly high energy prices, and a persistent state budget deficit", according to Marney Cox, Chief Economist, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).

"It is imperative that San Diego County do all it can do to sponsor economic growth by attracting new business as well as business expansion," said Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, Chairwoman of the County Board of Supervisors. "San Diego County's future depends upon employment diversification, tourism, manufacturing, farming and high tech industries. Business success means jobs."

The Economic Roundtable was sponsored by the County Board of Supervisors, the San Diego Workforce Partnership and the San Diego Union-Tribune. Approximately 350 people attended the Roundtable, including representatives from the offices of state and local officials.

The Union-Tribune's business editor, Dean Calbreath, moderated the roundtable. Six economic experts shared their forecasts for 2005 including estimates for trends in the housing market, employment and the region's national economic ranking.

Expert panelists and their speech topics were:

Dr. Ross M. Starr, Economics Professor, University of California, San Diego
The National Economy in 2005: Continuing Expansion, Rising Interest Rates and a Growing National Debt

Marney Cox, Chief Economist, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
San Diego's 2005 Economic Forecast

Gary London, President, The London Group Realty Advisors
San Diego Commercial and Residential Real Estate Trends

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Lawrence G. Fitch, President & CEO, San Diego Workforce Partnership, Inc.
2005 Workforce Outlook

Julie Meier Wright, President & CEO, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation
Advantage Business? Issues Affecting San Diego's Regional Competitiveness

Mitch Mitchell, Vice President, Policy and Communications, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
BRAAC -The Preservation of Human Capital

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